Docket No. 1232-4457

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s)	:	Masahiko Sakayori et al.	
Serial No.	:	09/122,293	Group Art Unit :2163
Filed	:	July 24, 1998	Examiner: M. Irshadullah
For	:	PARTS ORDERING SYSTEM, PARTS MANAGEMENT SYSTEM AND APPARATUS FOR MANAGING ORDERING AND RECEIPT OF ORDERS	

ATTACHMENT

Amendments made to the claims 1, 9, 11-13, 16, 21-24 and 29 herein are indicated in this attachment by bracketing the text that has been deleted and underlining the text that has been added.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please note the following changes to claims 1, 9, 11-13, 16, 21-24 and 29:

1. (Twice Amended) A parts ordering system having a first domain, a second domain and a third domain connected in a tree structure, each domain [is] being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, wherein said second domain includes:

expansion means for expanding, into each component part, a part corresponding to an order that has been received from the first domain; and

communication means for communicating, to the third domain corresponding to each component part expanded by said expansion means, the order for each component part expanded by said [expanding] expansion means.

9. (Amended) A parts ordering system in which a domain on a first network and a domain on a second network are connected via a public line, wherein the domain on said second network includes:

means for receiving an order from the domain on said first network;

means for devising a machining plan based upon the order;

means for [performing expansion] expanding, into each component part, a part corresponding to the order in accordance with the machining plan;

means for devising an ordering plan for each expanded component part; and

means for ordering in units of individual parts in accordance with the ordering plan.

11. (Twice Amended) A parts ordering system having a database which stores an amount of specific parts contained in inventory, as well as a first domain, second domain and third domain connected in a tree structure, each domain is a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, wherein said second domain includes:

means for [performing expansion] expanding, into each component part, a part corresponding to an order [based upon an order] received from the first domain;

communication means for communicating, to the third domain, orders in individual parts units expanded by said means for [performing expansion] expanding; and

stopping means for comparing the amount of specific parts contained in inventory

stored in the database and a required amount of specific parts obtained by expansion performed by said means for [performing expansion] expanding, and stopping the communication of an order to the third domain in a case where the amount of specific parts contained in inventory is greater, by a prescribed amount, than the required amount of specific parts.

12. (Twice Amended) A parts ordering system in which a first domain is internally provided with a database in which an amount of specific parts contained in inventory has been stored, wherein said first domain includes:

means for [performing expansion] expanding, into each component part, a part corresponding to an order [based upon an order] received from the second domain;

communication means for communicating, to the third domain, orders in individual parts units expanded by said means for [performing expansion] expanding; and

stopping means for comparing the amount of specific parts contained in inventory stored in the database within the first domain and a required amount of specific parts obtained by expansion performed by said means for [performing expansion] expanding, and stopping the communication of an order to the third domain in a case where the amount of specific parts contained in inventory is greater, by a prescribed amount, than the required amount of specific parts,

wherein each domain is a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line.

13. (Twice Amended) A parts ordering system having a first domain and a

second domain connected in a tree structure, each domain being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, wherein said second domain includes:

[expansion] means for expanding, into each component part, a part corresponding to the order [based upon an order] received from the first domain; and

first control means which controls reference permission for referring, from an operating terminal connected to said second domain, to status of order receiving/issuance in individual parts units expanded by said [expansion] means for expanding.

16. (Twice Amended) A parts ordering system having a first domain and a second domain connected in a tree structure, each domain being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, wherein said second domain includes:

[expansion] means for expanding, into component parts, a part corresponding to an order that has been received from the first domain;

first control means which controls permission to refer to an order for a component part expanded by said [expansion] means for expanding, reference being made from an operating terminal connected to the second domain, and second control means for controlling permission to refer to ordering information, within the first domain, related to an order issued to the second domain.

21. (Twice Amended) A parts ordering method whereby a first domain, a

second domain and a third domain connected in a tree structure, each domain [is] being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, deliver and receive orders, comprising:

an [expansion] expanding step at which the second domain expands, into each component part[s], a part corresponding to an order that has been received from the first domain; and

a communication step at which the second domain communicates, to the third domain, an order for each component part expanded at the [expansion] expanding step.

22. (Twice Amended) A parts ordering method whereby a first domain, a second domain and a third domain connected in a tree structure deliver and receive orders via a database which stores an amount of specific parts contained in inventory, each domain being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, the method comprising:

an [expansion] expanding step at which the second domain expands, into each component part, a part corresponding to an order received from the first domain;

a communication step at which the second domain communicates, to the third domain, orders in individual parts units expanded at the [expansion] expanding step; and

a stopping step at which the second domain compares the amount of specific parts contained in inventory stored in the database and a required amount of specific parts obtained by expansion performed at the [expansion] expanding step, and stops the communication of an order to the third domain in a case where the amount of specific parts contained in inventory is greater,

by a prescribed amount, than the required amount of specific parts.

23. (Amended) A parts ordering method whereby a first domain, which is internally provided with database in which [a number] an amount of specific parts contained in inventory has been stored, accepts an order from a second domain and communicates the order to a third domain, each domain being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, the method comprising:

an expanding step at which the first domain performs expansion, into each component part, a part corresponding to [based upon] an order received from the second domain;

a communication step at which the first domain communicates, to the third domain, orders in individual parts units expanded at the expanding step; and

a stopping step in which the first domain compares the [number] amount of specific parts contained in inventory stored in the database within the first domain and a required number of specific parts obtained by expansion performed at the expanding step, and stops the communication of an order to the third domain in a case where the [number] amount of specific parts contained in inventory is greater, by a prescribed [number] amount, than the required [number] amount of specific parts.

24. (Twice Amended) A parts management system having a database which stores an amount of specific parts contained in inventory, as well as a first domain, a second domain and a third domain connected in a tree structure, each domain being a unit of processing in a computer system corresponding to a working unit on a production line, wherein

said second domain includes:

means for [performing expansion] expanding, into each component part, a part corresponding to an order received from the first domain; and

communication means for communicating, to the third domain, orders in individual parts units expanded by said means [for performing expansion] for expanding;

said second domain having input means for inputting, to the database, information relating to a part delivered in accordance with an order.

29. (Amended) A computer readable recording medium on which has been recorded a program by which the following means are implemented by a computer:

means for issuing an order;

means for receiving an order;

means for devising a machining plan based upon the order received;

means for [performing expansion] expanding, into each component part, in accordance with the machining plan;

means for devising an ordering plan for a part that has been expanded into [its] each component part[s];

means for ordering a part expanded into [individual parts units] each component part corresponding to [based upon] the ordering plan;

means for reading data from a database in accordance with the order for the part; and

means for writing the read data to the database.